



FACT SHEET U.S. Air Force Reserve

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Dixie Express

The United States Air Force Reserve Dixie Express is a six-piece ensemble that features the sounds of traditional jazz with a New Orleans-revival flavor. As full-time professional military musicians, our musicians have a rare opportunity to support the United States Air Force Reserve while at the same time preserving our musical heritage by performing early jazz styles. Dixie Express has the capability to perform in a formal concert setting or in a mobile "strolling" presentation and also conducts clinics and master classes for high school and college music students. Dixie Express is a subunit of the Band of the United States Air Force Reserve Concert Band.

Since its formation in 1978, Dixie Express has been traveling extensively throughout the southeastern United States performing for thousands of people each year at military functions as well as recruiting and community relations concerts. Dixie Express has appeared at many festivals throughout the country such as the Mammoth Lakes Jazz Jubilee in Mammoth Lakes California, the Shrimp Festival in Gulf Shores Alabama, Jazz on the Riverfront in Bradenton Florida, the Suncoast Dixieland Jazz Classic in Clearwater Florida, and the French Quarter Festival in New Orleans Louisiana. The band has performed with jazz greats such as trumpeter Mike Vax, clarinetists Bob Draga, Allan Vaché, and Peter Meijers, and trombonist Steve Yokum. In 1982, Dixie Express won the Best Band Award for Mardi Gras in New Orleans, Louisiana. In May of 1995, Dixie Express represented the United States in a special community relations concert in Pordenone, Italy.

The Non-commissioned Officer in Charge and cornet player of the group is Staff Sergeant Steve Collins from Matewan, West Virginia. On trombone, Staff Sergeant Charles Anderson is from Macon, Georgia and serves as the group's Musical Director and Master of Ceremonies. Completing the front line is Airman First Class Rebecca Hawkins from Gray, Georgia on Clarinet. The rhythm section includes Staff Sergeant William Granger of Atlanta, Georgia on a WWI issue Helicon; Senior Airman Dennis Pack of Twin Falls, Idaho on banjo and Senior Airman James Mangette of Mansfield, Ohio on drums.

The members of Dixie Express are professional Air Force musicians working in support of United States Air Force and Air Force Reserve recruiting and community relations objectives.